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Date: April 16, 2003

To: Examiner Karin M. Reichle
Fax No: 703-746-3389From: Andrew D. Stover, Reg. No. 38,629
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Telephone 312-321-4200San Jose, CA
Indianapolis, IN
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Arlington, VA**COVER MESSAGE:****RE: S/N 09/855,182****Dear Examiner Reichle:****Please find enclosed a proposed Amendment in
advance of our telephone interview on April 21, 2003 at
2:00 P.M. EST.****Sincerely,****Andrew D. Stover
Reg. No. 38,629**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Fell, et al.

Serial No: 09/855,182

Filed: May 14, 2001

For: ABSORBENT GARMENT WITH
EXPANDABLE ABSORBENT ELEMENT)

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) Examiner: Reichle, Karin M.

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) Group Art No: 3761

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PROPOSED AMENDMENT FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

Please rewrite claims 22 and 32 as follows:

22. (Amended) A method of absorbing exudates excreted from a user with an absorbent garment comprising:

providing a chassis having a body side surface and a garment side surface and an absorbent element connected to said garment side surface of said chassis at a first location, said absorbent element having a first portion detachably connected to at least one of a second portion of said absorbent element and said garment side surface of said chassis at a second location, wherein said absorbent element comprises an absorbent material;

securing said chassis to a body of a user;

insulating said absorbent material with said exudates and thereby causing said absorbent material to expand; and

disconnecting said first portion of said absorbent element from said at least one of said second portion of said absorbent element and said garment side surface of said chassis at at least a portion of said second location as said absorbent material expands while maintaining said connection between said absorbent element and said garment side surface of said chassis at said first location.

32. (Amended) A method of assembling an absorbent garment comprising:
- providing a chassis having a body side surface and a garment side surface;
 - providing an absorbent element comprising an absorbent material;
 - bonding said absorbent element with a primary bond to said garment side surface of said chassis at at least one primary bond region; and
 - bonding a first portion of said absorbent element to at least one of a second portion of said absorbent element and said garment side surface of said chassis with a secondary bond at at least one secondary bond region, wherein said secondary bond is weaker than said primary bond.

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